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MEXICO, MEXICO, *August 6, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report on the city of Orizaba, at which place I arrived in the afternoon of August 3. Orizaba lies on the main line of the Mexican Railway, at a distance of 82 miles from Vera Cruz, and 181 miles from the City of Mexico. The time distance from Vera Cruz is about four hours, and from Mexico City about ten hours. The altitude of Orizaba is 4,027 feet, which with its excellent natural drainage and abundant rainfall should insure for it a high degree of healthfulness. This, however, is not the case, as enteric, typhus, and the severe forms of malarial fever are nearly always present. The population of Orizaba is about 45,000, and the annual death rate from all causes for the year ended June 30, 1899, was 2,434. The water supply, which is supposed to be, and undoubtedly is, the cause of the intestinal diseases which prevail in Orizaba, is derived partly from small mountain streams and from private wells. There is no sewer system, except one large stone sewer which runs through the center of the town, therefore, all refuse must be swept away by the surface drainage. I called upon the district registrar and was allowed to compile the following table from the official records. As deaths alone are reported, the actual number of cases is unknown.

Year and month.	Yellow fever.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Perniciosa.
1899.				
January.....		1	2	
February.....		3	1	
March.....		2	1	
April.....		1	3	
May.....	4	3	2	6
June.....	2	1	1	4
July.....	a 5	0	0	5

a Last case died on July 24.

All of the cases of yellow fever were imported either from Vera Cruz or Cordoba. I was unable to obtain reliable information as to the total number of cases of yellow fever. Dr. Mindiola, of Orizaba, cited to me 3 recoveries from this disease. If one could be certain that the cases of perniciosa were all of a malarial nature an exact number of cases might be more easily arrived at. While the town of Orizaba is noninfectible, I see no reason to depart from our rule requiring detention of all passengers and disinfection of all baggage coming from that place. I have arranged with a resident of Orizaba, a Mr. Delplaine, to have a weekly mortality report forwarded to the Marine-Hospital Service Bureau, and also any information likely to prove of use in the Service work here forwarded to this office.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTUGAL.

Plague in Oporto and Lisbon.

August 16: Consul at Lisbon wires State Department: "Bubonic pest at Oporto. Few cases at Lisbon. No trains can pass Spanish frontier. No more clean bills of health issued vessels."